

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-27, and 29-38 are now pending in the application. Pending claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 19-27, 29-37, 39, and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b). Applicants acknowledge the Examiner for indicating that claims 8, 12, 15-18, 28, and 38 are allowed. By this Amendment, claims 8, 28, and 38 are cancelled. Claims 1, 21, and 31 are amended. No new matter is presented. The above amendments and the following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome each rejection raised by the Examiner and to place the application in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

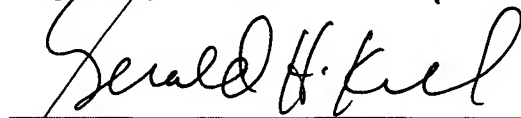
I. Rejection Of Pending Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 19-27, 29-37, 39, and 40 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 19-27, 29-37, 39, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Mourou et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,656,186). Independent claims 1, 21, and 31 are amended to incorporate the allowable features recited in claims 8, 18, and 38. In view of these amendments, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 19-27, 39, and 40.

II. Conclusion

For the reasons presented above, claims 1-7, 8-27, 29-37, 39 and 40, all the claims pending in the application, are believed by Applicants to define patentable subject matter and should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. A Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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